



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Whale Branch Middle  
Beaufort County  
Grades: 5-8 Enrollment: 306  
Principal: Mona Lise Dickson  
Superintendent: Dr. Valerie Truesdale  
Board Chair: Fred Washington

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov) as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	Below Average	Average	TBD	TBD	Met	R-DELAY
2008	At-Risk	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	R
2007	At-Risk	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	RP

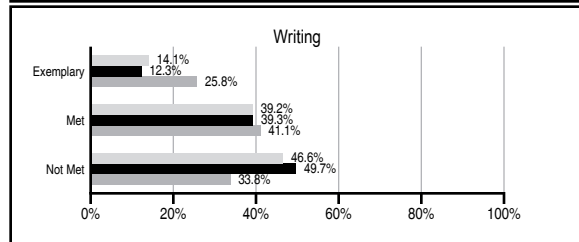
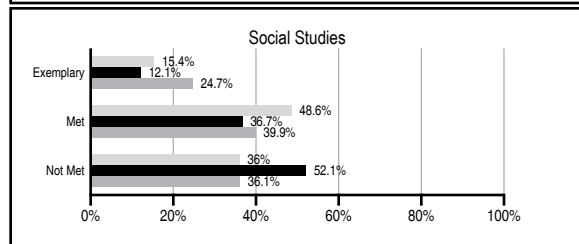
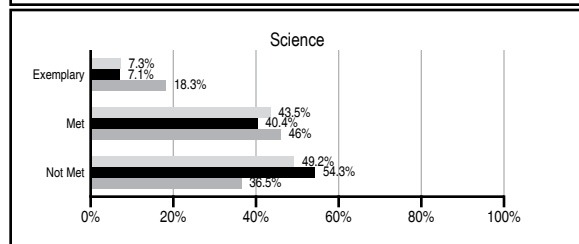
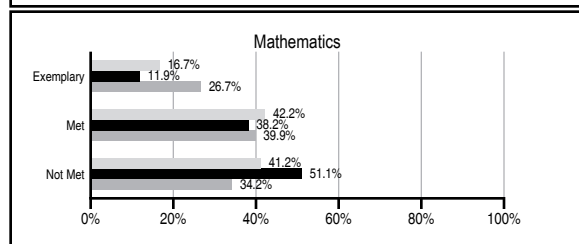
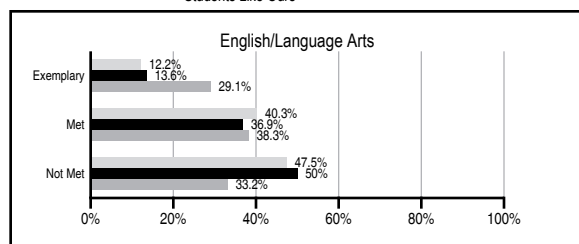
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	8	34	19

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Schools with Students Like Ours are Middle Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

## PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School Middle Schools with Students Like Ours Middle schools statewide



## NAEP PERFORMANCE\*

\* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.

### READING - GRADE 8 (2007)

South Carolina	31	44	23	2
Nation	27	43	27	2
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced

### MATH - GRADE 8 (2007)

South Carolina	29	39	24	7
Nation	30	39	24	7
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced

### SCIENCE - GRADE 8 (2005)

South Carolina	46	31	21	2
Nation	43	30	24	3
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced

## END OF COURSE TESTS - 2009

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	100.0	89.4
English 1	N/A	85.3
Physical Science	N/A	33.8
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	100.0	87.5

## SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

### 2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

### 2020 Vision:

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

### Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined  
NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

# Whale Branch Middle [Beaufort County]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
<b>Students (n=306)</b>				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	11.4%	Up from 7.0%	13.2%	21.6%
Retention rate	0.3%	Down from 1.2%	2.4%	1.2%
Attendance rate	97.3%	Up from 93.7%	95.3%	95.9%
Eligible for gifted and talented	12.5%	Down from 12.8%	6.1%	14.8%
With disabilities other than speech	11.8%	Down from 12.2%	14.1%	12.6%
Older than usual for grade	1.3%	Down from 3.3%	5.1%	2.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	3.3%	Up from 0.0%	0.3%	0.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n=28)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	39.3%	Down from 56.7%	54.3%	56.9%
Continuing contract teachers	64.3%	Up from 63.3%	65.5%	72.7%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	13.0%	No Change	14.4%	5.3%
Teachers returning from previous year	66.7%	Down from 74.9%	77.1%	82.9%
Teacher attendance rate	93.5%	Up from 91.8%	95.0%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$45,841	Down 6.3%	\$44,505	\$46,599
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	6.6%	Down from 11.8%	8.6%	2.4%
Professional development days/teacher	16.8 days	Up from 9.0 days	10.0 days	10.8 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 2.0	2.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	14.6 to 1	Down from 26.2 to 1	17.0 to 1	20.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.3%	Up from 83.5%	89.1%	89.9%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 85.9%	95.9%	97.8%
Character development program	Good	Down from Excellent	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$12,245	Up 20.2%	\$9,601	\$7,645
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	55.9%	Down from 57.8%	60.6%	63.4%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	46.1%	Down from 55.2%	54.4%	57.0%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%	Up from 53.3%	88.2%	90.5%

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	25	94	47
Percent satisfied with learning environment	64.0%	75.5%	76.1%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	88.0%	87.2%	79.5%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	41.7%	87.1%	84.4%

\*Only students at the highest middle school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

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## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Whale Branch Middle School completed a year of success and many accomplished achievements. This year we implemented the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Academy (STEM) for our 5th and 6th graders. A STEM infused school is geared to the natural curiosity and creativity of children. Using the natural resources of Whale Branch Middle School allowed the students to be engaged in hands-on experiences that sparked the imagination.

Teachers used Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) and Testview to identify students' strengths and weaknesses in the core subject areas. Data was used to drive instruction to raise academic achievement. Teachers met every Monday for Data meetings, Tuesdays for Technology and Wednesdays for curriculum with instructional coaches.

We continued to incorporate Single-Gender classes for the third consecutive year. Staff development was held to enrich the knowledge of teachers and to assist them with the strategic planning of strategies involving single-gender classes.

The 21st Century After-School Program served more than half the school's population. During the year, we partnered with the Beaufort Conservation District to enlighten students' curiosity in the core subject areas. Guest speakers were invited to come and discuss character education and setting goals with our students. Additionally, Compass Learning was used to support students in mastering skills in English and Mathematics.

Professional Development is a key component in supporting teachers to increase student achievement. This year, Whale Branch Middle School Staff completed staff development in technology, using the Promethean Board, MAP, Decrate, Testview, Results Now, Teacher Advancement Program (TAP), Literacy, Arts Infused, Everyday Math and Curriculum Mapping. The Spring MAP results highlighted 60 percent or more of our students meeting their individual growth targets in English and Mathematics.

In an effort to build strong home and school relationships, Whale Branch Middle School combined with the feeder elementary schools to involve all stakeholders in raising student achievement. Some of the events were Literacy Nights with renowned authors like Brod Baggett, Carmen Deedy, E.B. Lewis and Michael Johnson. Other events were the Art Showcase, Faith Leaders Luncheon and the Parent to Parent nights.

The staff and students at Whale Branch Middle School are determined stakeholders prepared to promote excellence in teaching and learning. It is hugely important for educators, parents and the community to know how powerful schools can be for children. As a community of learners, we must strive to conquer new challenges and seize every opportunity to attain ultimate success in our classrooms.

Mona Lise Dickson, Principal  
Marilyn Fields, SIC Chairperson

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